

Commissioner for Patents
Reply to Office Action of October 13, 2005
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Serial No.: 10/806,275

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Under 35 USC 112 the Examiner has rejected claims 7-18 for defects of antecedent basis identified in claims 7 and 11. Claims 7 and 11 have been amended accordingly to correct the identified defects. Therefore, the Examiner's rejection of claims 7-18 is traversed.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Under 35 USC 102(e) the Examiner has rejected claims 7, 10 and 15-18 as being anticipated by Care et al. (US 6,893,478). Claim 7 has been amended accordingly to distinguish claim 7 over Care et al. Care et al. teach a centrifugal air oil separation system substantially positioned inside a rotatable hollow shaft disposed substantially horizontally, and comprising an annular separating chamber. Care et al.'s annular separating chamber is defined in combination with the hollow shaft, that is, a portion of an external wall of the hollow shaft forms part of the annular separating chamber. Thus, Care et al. do not disclose the features of the centrifugal air/oil separation system defined in the amended claim 7. Thus, the Examiner's rejection of claim 7 is traversed.

Claims 10 and 15-18 depend directly or indirectly from allowable base claim 7 and stand together with the allowable base claim for patentability.

Claim 8 which depends directly from claim 7, has been amended accordingly due to the amendments to claim 7.


Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's statement regarding the allowability of claims 8, 9 and 12-14. As a result of the amendments to claim 7, claims 8, 9 and 12-14 now depend directly or indirectly from an allowable base claim (amended claim 7).

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It is believed that this application is now in condition for immediate allowance.
Favourable reconsideration and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are
respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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